



4 Forest Restoration Initiative

Overview and Status of the Project

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AZ Governor's Forest Health Council Meeting
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Overview of the 4FRI



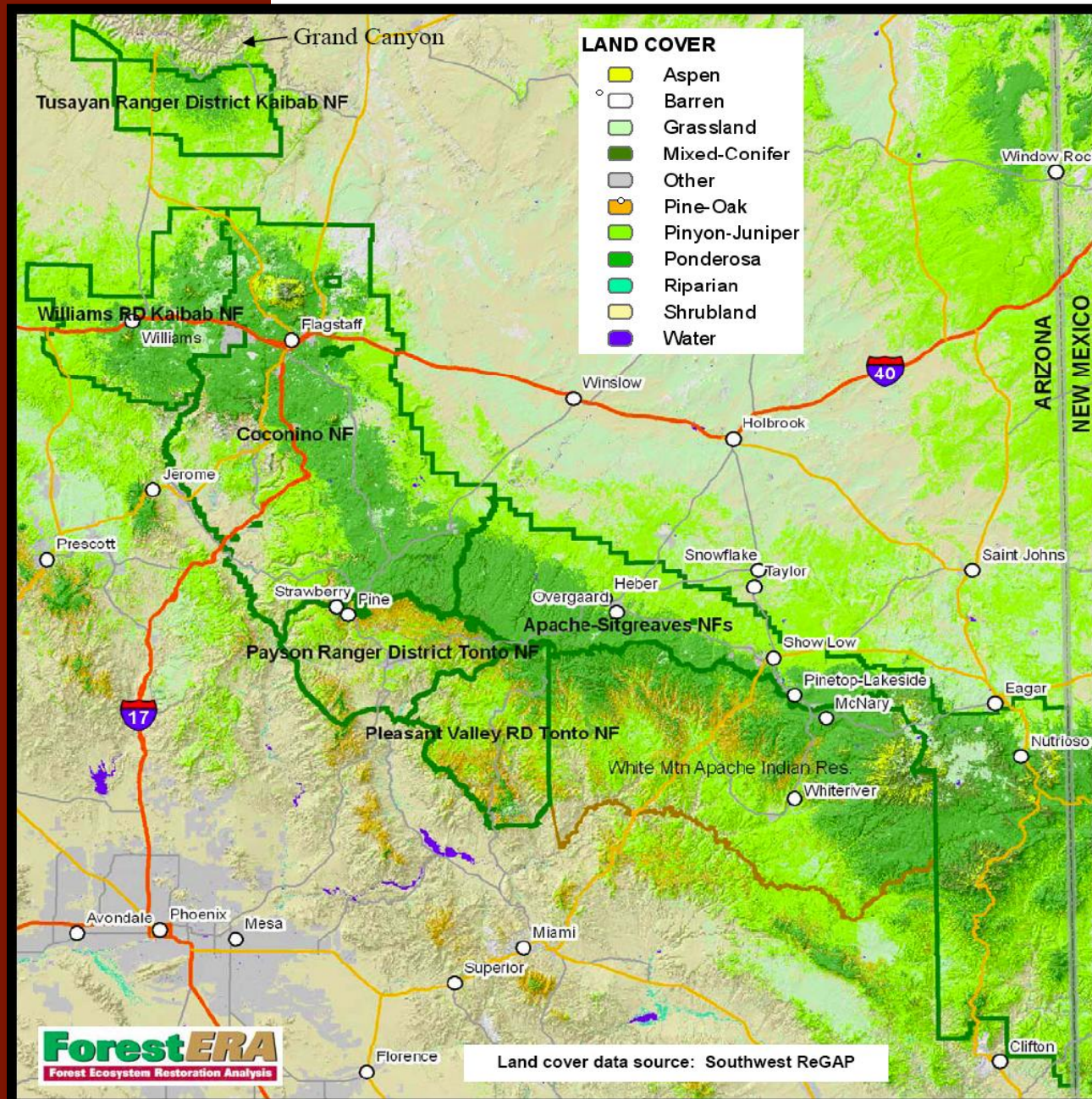
- Departure from historical conditions
- Larger, hotter, more destructive wildland fires
- Inability to treat forests fast enough with “business as usual” approach
- Appropriate thinning of trees to reduce density and improve forest structure
- Return of frequent, low-intensity fire
 - Prescribed fire
 - Management of natural fires to meet restoration objectives
- Support sustainable forest products industry(ies)
 - Promote economic development
 - Offset costs of forest thinning

Overall Goals



- Plan and implement restoration treatments across an area of 2.4 million acres
- Total area for mechanical treatment: ~1 million acres over ~20 years
- Treat ~30,000 additional acres/year, primarily through stewardship contracts
- In combination with our normal program (~17,000 acres/year), we would treat nearly 50,000 acres/year of ponderosa pine forest across the four forests

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative



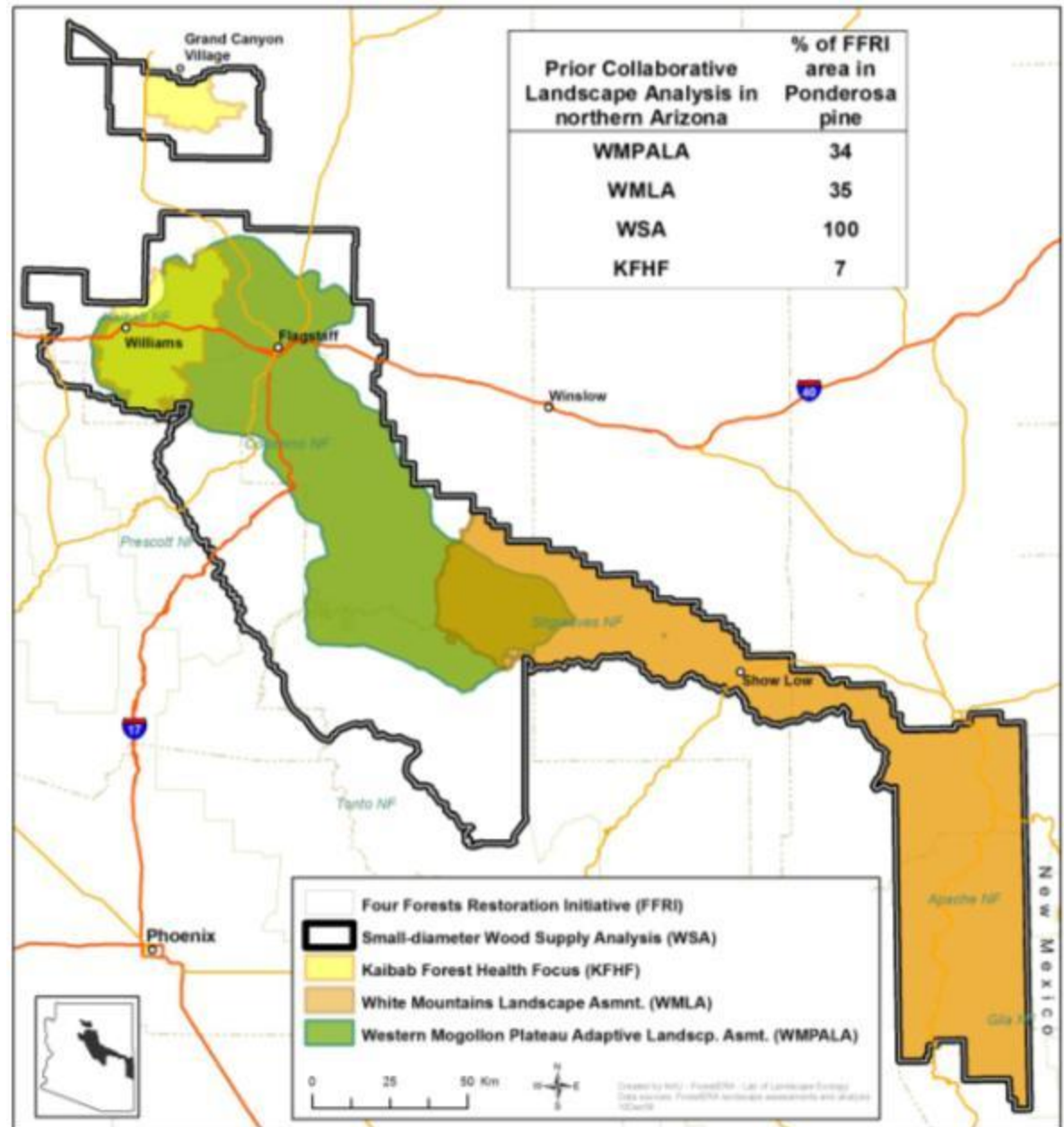
The 4 Forest Restoration Initiative



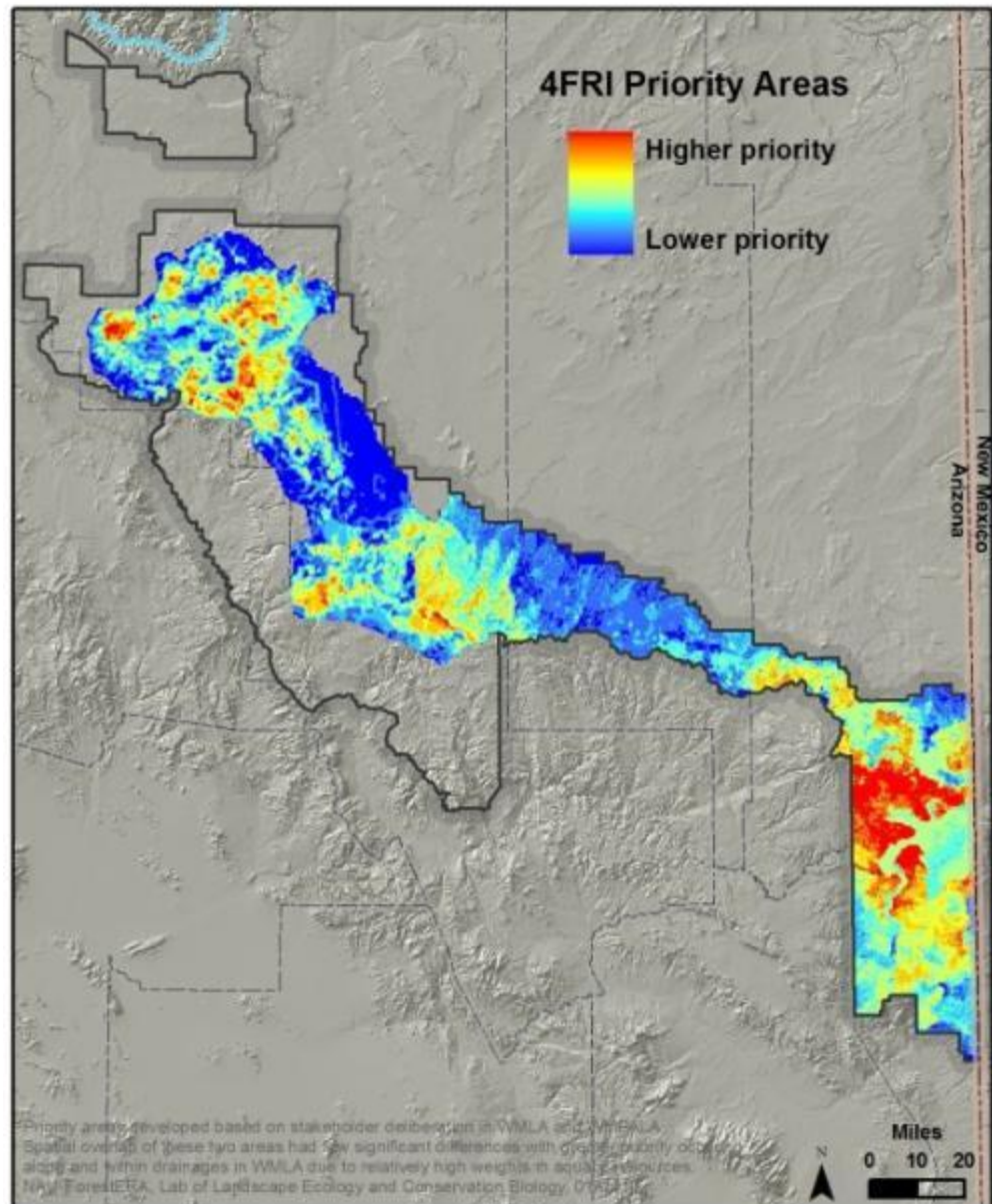
This initiative builds on a number of past collaborative efforts, including:

- Natural Resources Working Group in the White Mountains
- Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership
- *Western Mogollon Plateau Landscape Assessment* (2004)
- *White Mountains Landscape Assessment* (2005)
- *Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona's Forests* (2007)
- *Analysis of Small-Diameter Wood Supply in Northern Arizona* (2008)
- *Kaibab Forest Health Focus* (2009)

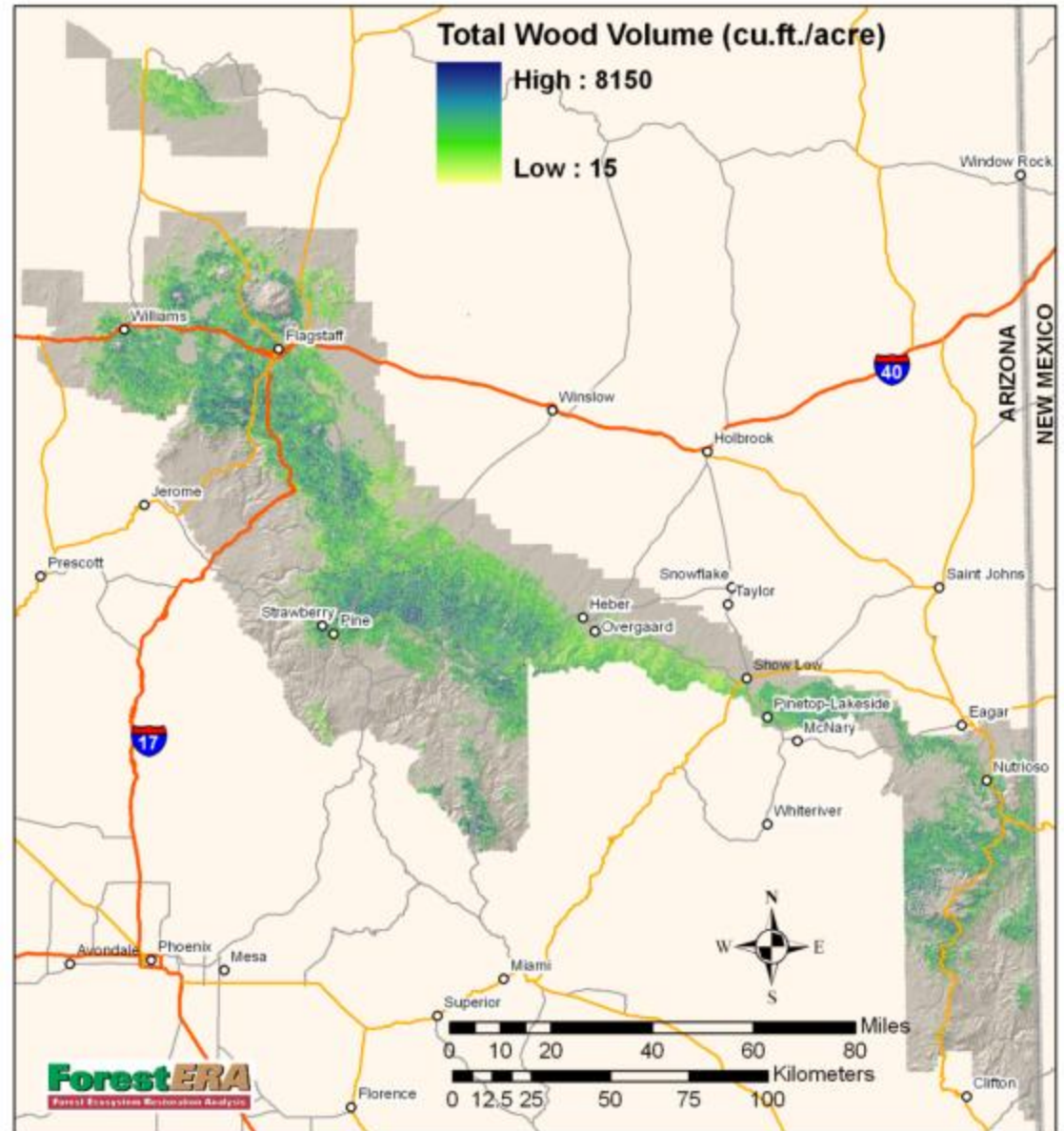
Previous Landscape Assessments in the 4FRI area



Priority Areas in Greatest Need of Restoration Identified in Previous Landscape Assessments



Wood Supply Study



Stakeholder Group



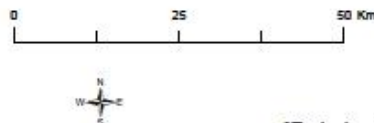
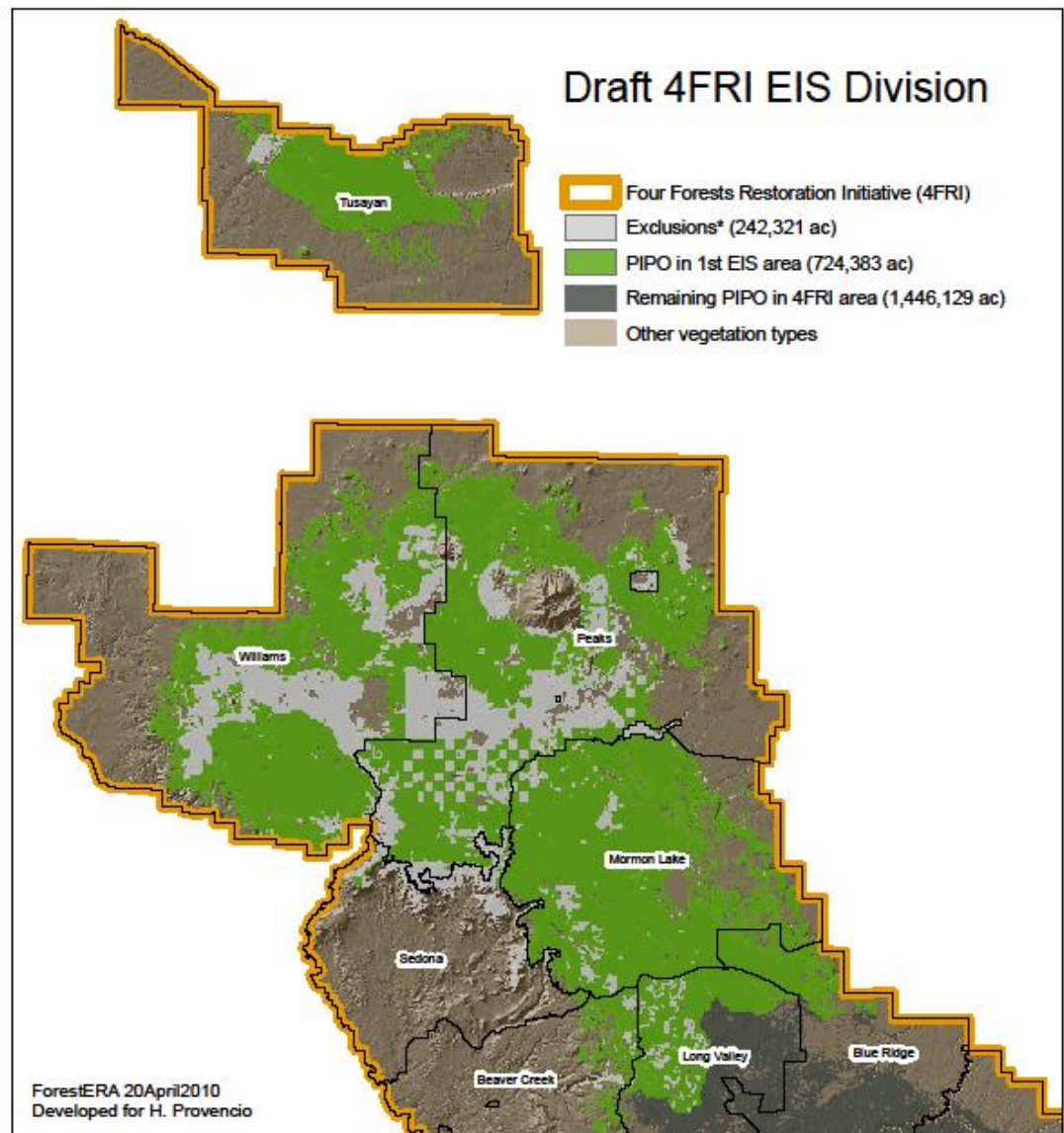
Arizona Forest Restoration Products
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona State Forestry Division
Arizona Eastern Counties Association
Center for Biological Diversity
Coconino County Board of Supervisors
Coconino Natural Resources Conservation District
Coconino Rural Environment Corps
Ecological Restoration Institute
Flagstaff Fire Department
Forest Energy Corp.
Gila County
Graham County
Grand Canyon Trust
Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership
Greenlee County
Northern Arizona Wood Products Association
Natural Resources Working Group
The Nature Conservancy
Navajo County
Northern AZ Logging Association
Northern Arizona University Forest Ecosystem Restoration Analysis (ForestERA)
Pioneer Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Rocky Mountain Research Station
Sierra Club
Southwest Sustainable Forests Partnership
US Fish and Wildlife Service

Current Activities: USFS



- Building implementation team
- Developing landscape strategy
- First project to take place on the Coconino and Kaibab NFs; ~750,000 acres
- Communications strategy
- Preparing for development of an RFP in late 2010 and contract in late 2011
- MOU with stakeholders
- Funding proposal under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act
- Conducting information needs assessment and looking at existing and desired conditions for first project area

First 4FRI Analysis Area



Total 4FRI area = 5,968,775 ac

Total PIPO in 4FRI area = 2,412,834 ac



*Exclusions include non-USFS lands (private, state, military, local, natl. parks), steep slopes, wilderness, completed NEPA Project Areas

Current Activities: Stakeholders



- Monthly Meetings, Steering Committee, Working Groups
- Finalized *Path Forward*
- Developing Charter and Strategic Plan
- Working Groups
 - Landscape Strategy
 - CFLRA
 - Science and Monitoring
 - Communications
 - Industry Engagement

Where Are We Going?



- Timeline
 - Building Implementation Team
 - Landscape Strategy completed this year
 - Request for Proposals late 2010
 - Contract issued late 2011
 - First task orders 2012
 - First ROD for EIS covering newly planned acres in 2012
 - Implementation of newly planned 4FRI acres in 2014 or 2015

Challenges

- Industry engagement at appropriate scale
 - Contracting options
 - Timing
- Role of the landscape strategy
 - Should guide project and treatment locations, monitoring, and activities
 - Priority areas, monitoring framework, fire modeling, habitat considerations
- Planning at innovative scales
- Internal communications/Roles and responsibilities
- Successful collaborative planning with current legal framework and within timelines
- Monitoring and adaptive management
- Funding





Thank you for your attention
QUESTIONS?

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